

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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### CANCER OF ŒSOPHAGUS.

By ROBERT T. COOPER, M.D.

IN the second edition of my work on Cancer and Cancer Symptoms, at pages 47, 48, I thus refer to this affection in connection with the danger of repetition of remedies :—

“ A very good instance of this (*i.e.*, the danger of repetition) is afforded by cancers of the gullet. Here we get an obstruction produced by the narrowing influence of the cancer upon the lumen of the œsophagus. The very moment the remedy acts, as remedies very easily act, upon most cases of this affection a quantity of phlegm, often very offensive, comes away, and the chance for the patient depends upon allowing this action to expend itself upon the disease. If, therefore, the physician, blind to Nature’s warning, repeats his dose under the specious plea of ‘ its being necessary to push the remedy,’ he will inevitably hasten the death of his patient. And the more related the dose has been to the disease, the more necessary is it to observe this warning.”

A very fine example of this is now passing through my hands, and as the lesson for all of us is of amazing importance I hasten to report it.

Mrs. C., æt. 38, living at Hambro’ Road, Streatham, has been ill six years with what has been diagnosed as ulceration of the stomach and oesophagus. Several doctors have seen her, but for some years has been taking various advertised nostrums on her own account, and as might have been expected, without any benefit. She complains of a choking pain in the chest and low down in the throat after eating or drinking—is obliged

to drink with force or will bring back all her food. These symptoms began with sickness of the stomach when pregnant, six years ago : Cannot keep anything down without drinking, and when the food gets down feel uncomfortable, as if she would have diarrhea ; bowels, however, are regular ; occasional faint feelings, and gets thinner.

For these symptoms I gave *Verat. album*  $\phi$ A., relying upon the symptom, “ *Spasmodic constriction and strangulation of the œsophagus,*” and which I considered to be near enough to the symptoms of the case to be reliable. This dose was given October 15, 1900.

On the 6th of November patient reported in person :— Gets things down better. She felt no change till a week ago, when she began bringing up phlegm, and has since had a thick, hoarse feeling in the throat, but can drink more freely. Much flatus in the bowels ; no faintings.

The next stage in the case was described to me by a friend of the patient, who wrote on November 21st that Mrs. C. was feeling very unwell, that the monthly period came on on the 18th, and that since the 17th she had not been able to get a particle of food down.

On the 19th chill seized her, and had to go to bed, and since then food and phlegm came up together the moment she attempted to eat anything. She has great pain low down in the œsophagus when swallowing, and in her back, and between the shoulders and up to her head ; also, has fainted through weakness last evening.

The letter went on to state that Mrs. C. was in a terrible condition, and that not a particle of food could be got down.

In reply I wrote that I knew perfectly well what was taking place, that she was being beneficially acted upon, and that if she would only keep filling her mouth with hot water and with soups occasionally she would probably last long enough for the full benefit of the dose to take effect.

On December 4th the patient herself called to tell me of the painful experience she had gone through. She had had, she said, great pain with cold shivers, had been fainting two or three times a day, and had brought everything up ; had kept in bed for two days, during which time she was unable to endure the slightest sound, and felt suicidal, with a horrible burning pain in the middle

of the chest going through to between the shoulders, and a feeling of being choked up. She still complained of pain in the same place on food going down—is living on milk and broth. A week ago great quantities of phlegm used to come up on coughing or attempting to drink, but this was now less, and that she seemed no longer to be losing flesh.

Prescription—To go without medicine.

On December 19th she came again to see me, expressing herself as in every way better; can swallow cocoa without its returning, and can even eat a dry biscuit, which she has not done for years, and has nothing like the pain “in her stomach,” as she expresses it. She still keeps bringing up phlegm, but is much stronger, and has resumed her usual hard work, and is no longer faint.

The lesson to be learned from all this is that this patient would most undoubtedly have died had I given her a second dose of the same remedy, and that her recovery is entirely due to the fact that the arborivital dose was allowed to do its work untrammelled and unimpeded.

It may not be a financially prudent procedure to give the indicated dose and to let it act, but it is good homeopathic practice all the same, and certainly in an obscure disease like cancer of the gullet more reasonable and more agreeable to the patient than the continuous dosing so strongly recommended by some supposed followers of the great and immortal Hahnemann.

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## A NOTE ON ANTIPYRIN.

By Dr. COOPER.

A lady complained that her baby, three months old, turned blue round the mouth, and was short-breathed. Ordered 2 gr. of the 6th dec. of *Antipyrin*.

Result : the blue appearance round mouth got better at once, but for two weeks the child was troubled with constant scanty, green stools, and the skin round the anus, broke out into a very obstinate eczema, which has continued after the diarrhea went.

Breathing improved.